Message Text

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 USIA-15 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4940

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, EFIN, SA, GW

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL FRG DELEGATION TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA

1. GERMAN DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER FOR ECONOMICS FRIDERICHS WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA BEGINNING JANUARY 29 FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MIXED GERMAN/SAUDI ARABIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION. THE THREE-DAY VISIT WILL BE CHIEFLY CONCERNED WITH INVESTMENT PROMOTION, WITH APPROXIMATELY 15 INDUSTRIAL LEADERS ACCOMPANYING FRIDERICHS, STATE SECRETARY ROHWEDDER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEEG AND KUSHEL, THE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF OPEC AFFAIRS IN ECONOMICS MINISTRY. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GERMAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION (KREDITANSTALT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU) WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY FRIDERICHS, BUT NO PRIVATE UNCLASSIFIED

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BANKERS. THE BUSINESSMEN REPRESENT FIRMS WHICH ARE ALREADY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE PURPOSE OF THEIR ATTENDANCE IS TO ADVISE THE SAUDIS ON FURTHER AREAS IN WHICH PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS CAN BE MADE.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, THE GERMAN

GOVERNMENT HOPES TO CONCLUDE A BILATERAL INVESTMENT SUPPORT AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME. SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS A PRE-CONDITION FOR GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES ON GERMAN INVESTMENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA.

- 3. IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT, THE SAUDI INVEST-MENT BANKING CORPORATION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN OPERATIONS ON FEB. 5. GERMANY'S COMMERZ BANK IS A SHAREHOLDER IN THE INVESTMENT BANK, WHICH IS TO PROVIDE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM FINANCING FOR INVESTORS IN SAUDI ARABIA.
- 4. MIXED COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS IN THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION FIELD ARE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ALSO ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. GERMANY HAS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN SAUDI ARABIA.

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TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, EFIN, SA, GE, (FRIDERICHS, HANS)

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